

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00541 171713Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 ISO-00 /103 W
-----029627 171819Z /14

P R 171537Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6967
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 541

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: THE WESTERN COMMITMENT

REF: STATE 058162

1. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL, THE KERNEL OF FLEUR DE VILLIERS' QUESTION (CAPE TOWN 394) IS WHAT WOULD THE WEST DO IF THE SAG ACCEPTED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND SWAPO DID NOT. A NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICANS, BOTH OPPOSITION AND NATIONALISTS, HAVE RECENTLY UNDERScoreD TO US THE SAME QUESTION. DAWIE DE VILLIERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONALIST CAUCUS FOREIGN AFFAIRS STUDY GROUP, RECENTLY TOLD US THIS WAS A MAJOR QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF HIS COLLEAGUES.

2. IN THE LEADERSHIP DEBATE ON THE PROPOSAL, BOTHA IS UNDOUBTEDLY BEING PUSHED IN THE ISSUE. IF HE IS ACTUALLY EXPLORING ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, WHAT HE NEEDS, OF COURSE, IS DIRECT OR CLEARLY IMPLIED REASSURANCE FROM US
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00541 171713Z

THAT WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT SANCTIONS IF SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTED THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AND, IN THE EVENT SWAPO DID NOT DO LIKEWISE, PROCEEDED WITH ITS OWN PLANS FOR NAMIBIA. WE CANNOT GIVE SUCH REASSURANCE, EVEN THOUGH IN REALITY IT IS SCARECELY CONCEIVABLE WE WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO BACK SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES POSTULATED.

3. IF WE REVERSE THE QUESTION AS REFTTEL SUGGESTS WITH SWAPO ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL WHILE THE SAG REJECTS IT, WE ARE IN A SIMILAR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO SWAPO. WE CANNOT INDICATE IN ADVANCE TO SWAPO -- OR TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR THAT MATTER -- THAT WE WOULD ENDORSE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA FOR GOING AHEAD WITH AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

4. IN MY VIEW, WE CAN AND SHOULD SAY VERY LITTLE TO EITHER THE SAG OR SWAPO ON THIS, ASIDE FROM ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PARTY ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL IN THE FACE OF REJECTION BY THE OTHER WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING DEMONSTRATED TO THE FIVE AND TO THE WORLD THEIR COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. WE COULD ADD THAT THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR DECISION ON NEXT STEPS. BECAUSE SO MANY IMPONDERABLES ARE INVOLVED, I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE IT AT THAT.
BOWDLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FORM OF GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780119-0795
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780356/aaaabvgg.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8a9d17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 58162
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295715
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: THE WESTERN COMMITMENT
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, SWAPO
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8a9d17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014